

Title: Regarding implementation of the Sethu Samudharam Project of Tamil Nadu.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Gavit, you cannot read the entire statement in the 'Zero Hour'.

Now, Dr. V. Saroja.

DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the Sethu Samudharam project of Tamil Nadu. Forty years have since passed but this scheme has not been implemented so far.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to this scheme and also to give its reaction to my two specific questions. The Planning Commission has been requested to provide an outlay of Rs. 5 crore in the Annual Plan 1999-2000 for the preparation of a detailed feasibility report and also for the environmental aspect assessment study on this project. I would like to know whether the report has been given. Also I would like to know whether the Government of India has initiated any talk with the Sri Lankan Government, and if so, what are the details.

The hon. Defence Minister has announced that this scheme would be implemented in two stages, the first stage within four years, and the second stage within six years after the first stage. I would like to know as to what is happening exactly to this project. Also my leader, Dr. J. Jayalalitha, has requested the hon. Prime Minister to implement this scheme at the earliest.